GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:233
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2002
CONSERVATION OF COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared any action plan for the proper conservation of coastal and marine environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Ocean Awareness Programme has been launched by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and achievements made thereunder during the Ninth Plan?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a), (b), (c) & (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c) AND (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.233 REGARDIN CONSERVATION OF COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT PUT UP BY SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO FOR ANSWER IN THE LOK SABHA ON 19.03.2002

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Under the programme of Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management (ICMAM), the Department of Ocean Development have developed a draft ICMAM Plan for Chennai demonstrating the use of scientific tools and techniques like GIS, remote sensing and mathematical modelling which are useful in analysing issues and problems like coastal erosion, accretion, pollution and for conservation of a lake ecosystem, namely Pulicat. Attempts are being made to prepare similar plans for Goa and Gulf of Kachchh.

Under a Programme of Ministry of Environment & Forests, action plans for management of mangroves and corals have been prepared by the coastal States and Union Territories. Further, as per the requirement of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991, of the Environment Protection Act, 1986, each of the coastal States/ Union Territories have prepared coastal zone management plans, which aim to protect coastal ecosystems like mangroves, coral reefs, etc, taking into consideration the region-specific issues along the coastal zone. Thirty mangrove and 4 coral reef areas in the country have been identified for extensive conservation and management. Overall increase of 615 sq. kms of mangrove area in the country has been noticed during the period 1991-1999.

(c) & (d): The Department of Ocean Development has not launched any specific Ocean Awareness Programme. However, to project and create awareness on ocean technology and other developmental activities in the ocean sector, the department participates in exhibitions in the country and abroad. Further, the department also provides part funding for the conduct of seminars/workshops on ocean related topics. During the 9th Plan period the department had participated in 17 major exhibitions and part financed the conduct of over 120 scientific seminars/symposia dealing with subjects in the ocean sector.